

HOUSE BILL 2372

By Mumpower

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13,
Chapter 26 and Title 49, relative to creating a
character education intervention program.

WHEREAS, the First Tennessee human resource agency has created, as part of its character education services designed to reduce delinquency and truancy among juveniles and social dependency among adults, an intervention program known as "Moral Kombat"; and

WHEREAS, the Moral Kombat program provides training in the ethical decision-making process to at-risk and troubled youth and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Moral Kombat program has a demonstrated history of making a positive impact on older, troubled and at-risk youth in Northeast Tennessee and has an independently documented, overall success rate ranging from eighty-two percent (82%) to ninety-three percent (93%); and

WHEREAS, with benefit of a three-year step down grant leading to self-sufficiency, the Tennessee association of human resource agencies could successfully pilot statewide expansion of the program and its benefits beyond Northeast Tennessee; now, therefore,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens to authorize the association of human resources agencies to expand the Moral Kombat program currently provided through the First Tennessee human resource agency in northeast Tennessee.

SECTION 2.

(a) The human resources agencies created in title 13, chapter 26, are hereby authorized to apply for grants for the purpose of implementing statewide the Moral Kombat program.

(b) The program shall focus on youth, ages eleven (11) to nineteen (19), who are identified and referred to the program by the juvenile court system, public and private schools, the department of children's services or parents, guardians or other family members.

SECTION 3. At the end of each fiscal year for three (3) years, the First Tennessee human resource agency shall provide a detailed summary report including recidivism and success during the statewide implementation of the program to the children and family affairs committee of the house of representatives and to the judiciary committee of the senate. In addition, a grant summary report shall be provided to such committees at the end of the third year.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.